

BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S.

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

With Christmas almost upon us our school is a busy place with lots happening. Here are a few things we would like to bring to your attention.

December 2023

School Calendar

A payment link was sent via Aladdin for anyone that would like to buy a customised school. The payment link will close on **Thursday 21st of December**. Prices will be as follows: €10 for 1 calendar, €16 for 2 calendars and €22 for 3 calendars.

Policy Review

The school's Child Safeguarding Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy, were all reviewed and ratified at our most recent board of management meeting. All current policies can be found on the school website. New mandatory 'Complaints Procedures' for all national schools have been developed by the Department of Education and will be adopted at our next BOM meeting.

Board of Management

Shirley Corbett Power and **John Corcoran** are the new parents' reps on the board of management. **Bernard Gunning** remains on as our chairperson with **Áine Lenihan** acting as the patron's rep. **Aonghus O'Brien** and **Deirdre Troy** are again the teacher reps. Our two community reps will be elected at our first BOM meeting which will take place in the new year.

The **Carroll** family also called to the school earlier this week to express their gratitude for the school's involvement in the funeral mass of **Mary Teresa**. The staff were incredibly proud of all the children who both sang in the choir and formed the guard of honour. Our kids always act with respect and maturity when expected.

Well Being Action Plan

Surveys from children, parents and staff have been analysed and used to finalise our 3 Year School Improvement Plan in Wellbeing. This plan will be reviewed and ratified at our next board of management meeting. It will then be made available to parents on the school website along with all other school policies.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We had 57 donations to Team Hope's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal recently. These shoebox gifts will undoubtedly bring joy straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Thanks to all who participated for their generosity and to **Thérèse Marsh** for organising the annual appeal.

Nature Walk

3rd-6th classes spent a great day out and about recently, learning about our wonderful local history, flora and fauna. We also got to take in the wonderful scenery on the top of Craughnaun along with exploring a hidden gem in Gortacullin!!

Book Donations

A big thanks to **Jack O'Mahoney** for the recent donation of more than €500 worth of books from his own library.

Junior Activity Club

A huge thanks to **Regina Heffernan** and all her elves for the Santa experience held in the community hall recently. The bar continues to rise each year with this event and is evidence of community spirit at its best!!

School Enrolment

Enrolment for the 2024/2025 school year will open on **February 1st 2024** for both mainstream classes and our special class.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

All parent/teacher meetings should now be complete. Parents were so accommodating with times assigned and it was very much appreciated by staff. Thanks also for the many messages of thanks that parents expressed to their class teachers!

Christmas Cheer

We are inviting the children to wear something Christmassy on the last day of term for some Christmas fun and cheer.

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More News

Student Council

Our new Student Council consists of **Fionn Boland, Síobhra Corrigan, Gabrielle O'Riordan, Molly O'Farrell, Ailbhe O'Loughlin, Ava Hudson, Sophie O'Sullivan, Driss Alaoui, Betty Zimmerman** and **Mark Hickey**. They have hit the ground running with the following positive measures already introduced; New nets on the basketball rings, a Student Council information board, a new yard rota for breaktimes and extra basketballs and soccer balls for each class.

Christmas Panto

Children from Juniors to 2nd class are going to the Christmas Panto in University Concert Hall on Tuesday 19th of December. Please note that the children will return to school at the later time of approximately **4:30pm**. 5th and 6th class went to Tulla Secondary School to watch 'Grease, the Musical' on Tuesday 12th. 3rd & 4th class will be turning their classrooms into cinemas on Wednesday 20th of December.

Morning Activity

We are starting a 4 week block of morning exercise after the Christmas holidays (weather depending). This activity will start at 8:50am each morning (10 minutes before the start of school) and will last for 20 minutes. Children will be engaged in a variety of fundamental movement exercises which will hopefully have a positive impact on their physical wellbeing along with improved concentration levels when returning to class.



Parents Association

You are probably aware that our school doesn't have a Parents Association. If this is something that parents are interested in establishing, then further information can be obtained from the office or alternatively on the 'National Parents Council Primary' website.

Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day

Huge thanks to all the children and staff who took part in the Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day before the midterm break. We collected a 'hair-raising' **€791.45** in total which went to Crumlin Hospital. We really appreciate your support for this year's worthwhile charity fundraiser where all money was donated in memory of **Róisín, Tadhg and Daithí Considine**.

Accelerated Reader

We have never had so reading in the first term. A whopping 72 children from 1st-6th class have already hit their targets and we expect that number to increase slightly before the deadline on December 22nd. There are a few standout AR special

mentions to make. **Sonny Hayes** has the highest word count for a child in 1st class that our school has ever had in a first term (over 640,000 words). On top of this, Sonny has quadrupled his target as have **Seán O'Regan** and **Cora Ryan Humphries** while **Conor Skehan** has gone and quintupled his!! Well done all!!

Cross Country

A special mention to the 26 athletes who performed in the School's Cross Country County Finals at the beginning of November. All represented their school with pride!

School Closures

Reminder that our school will be closing for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday the 22nd of December at 12.00 noon** and reopening on **Monday the 8th of January 2024 at 9.00am**.



We will also close at 12 noon on **Monday 22nd of January** to facilitate staff meetings and planning.

Please note that the closures for the school year are detailed on the 'June Newsletter' which can be found on the school website under the Parents' Section.

Spelling Bee

We have entered the Eason's Spelling Bee competition. On **Wednesday 24th of January** we will run a spellings competition in the senior classes to determine which child will represent our school. *Get those dictionaries out!!*

Swimming

Swimming lessons in Shannon Leisure Centre begin for children from 1st-6th class straight after Christmas.

1st & 2nd Class: Tuesday, 9th January, 16th January, 23rd January, 30th January, 6th February & 13th February.

3rd & 4th Class: Wednesday, 10th January, 17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February & 21st February.

5th & 6th Class: Thursday, 11th January, 18th January, 25th January, 1st February, 8th February & 22nd February. Girls to tie their hair in tight buns/plaits to make it easier to dry.

Attendance

We have 95.7% attendance to date for the whole school with 27 children having perfect attendance. As the quote goes, "80% of Success is Showing Up....!!!"

School Assembly

We are looking forward to our last assembly of the term next week and especially to all of the 'Special Mentions'. Recognition goes to children for good behaviour, sporting successes, students of the week, good effort in class work and tests and for overall kindness towards others. Well done to all who have gotten special mentions to date and keep up the good work!!

Nollaig Shona Daoibh Go Léir,

Aonghus O'Brien

Broadford & Kilbane N.S.